

17 agencies, including the Federal Trade Commission, which created the We Don't Serve Teens program as a public education and outreach initiative.

The 2011 launch of We Don't Serve Teens occurred last week in Chicago and throughout the Nation. One purpose of the We Don't Serve Teens initiative is to inform parents and all adults that teen drinking is not inevitable. Crown Imports and MillerCoors, the number two and number three American beer suppliers, are both headquartered in the district I represent in Chicago. Both companies have supported the We Don't Serve Teens program since it began in 2006.

I am pleased that these two companies have joined the FTC, Members of Congress, Chicago officials, and thousands of concerned citizens to support We Don't Serve Teens. We need everyone at the table. Industry members have a unique ability to reach out directly to local stores, bars, restaurants, and other places where alcohol is served.

The We Don't Serve Teens message is reinforced. I commend these efforts. I especially commend the distributors of these alcoholic beverages in their effort to make sure that teens handle alcohol responsibly. The best way is to not drink at all.

POVERTY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as the founding member and a cochair of the Congressional Out of Poverty Caucus. The 42 members of the caucus work every day to ensure that we meet our economic and, yes, our moral obligation to the most vulnerable across this Nation—those people facing or living in poverty.

Yesterday, the United States Census Bureau released data showing that 2.6 million more Americans fell into poverty, making it 46.2 million people living in poverty in America. This is the highest number since the Census Bureau started keeping these records in 1959. Fifteen percent of Americans lived in poverty last year. The poverty rate among African Americans in 2010 was 27.4 percent; for nonwhite Hispanics it was 26.6 percent; for Asian Pacific Islanders it was 12.1 percent; and for non-Hispanic whites it was 9.9 percent.

Digging deeper into the disparities, the data reveals that the real median income declined for white and black households between 2009 and 2010. Real median income for each race and Hispanic-origin groups have not recovered to the pre-2001 recession all-time highs.

According to the Center for Budget and Policy Priorities, the Census data reveals that both the number and percentages of people living in deep poverty hit record highs, meaning that some 20.5 million Americans had cash

incomes below \$11,000 for a family of four. In addition, the Census reports that the median household income fell 2.3 percent, or \$1,100, in 2010.

Those at the bottom of the income scale have lost far more ground than those at the top. Income inequality continues to grow at alarming rates. We know that this crisis is even worse in communities of color.

The national average of children living in poverty in America is 20 percent. That's outrageous. For African American children, it's 36 percent; for Latino children, it's 31 percent. That's hard to believe. The median net worth of white families in 2009 was 20 times greater than that of the average black family, and 18 times greater than the average Hispanic family.

These are not just statistics. These are real human beings who deserve an opportunity to live the American Dream, which to our dismay, unfortunately, has turned into a nightmare for millions. So the Out of Poverty Caucus cochairs, Congressmen BACA, BUTTERFIELD, CONYERS, HONDA, and myself, sent a letter to the President asking him to address our Nation's job crisis, which is a national emergency, through a bold package of direct investment which is aimed at our Nation's most vulnerable—those facing or living in poverty. We asked that he consider including programs like the TANF Emergency Contingency Fund, which gets money out of the door across the country efficiently and effectively, and it puts people to work. We asked for job training at communities affected by the Great Recession, which of course is the depression for these communities, and we asked for programs that will help train and put our Nation's young people to work.

We are pleased and thankful that in the President's jobs bill he did embrace some of our suggestions, including building on programs like the TANF Emergency Contingency Fund and on the job training, youth employment, extension initiatives, and extending unemployment compensation, but we also still believe that unemployment compensation must be extended to those who have exhausted their benefits after 99 weeks until we create these jobs, because there are four individuals looking for one job. After 99 weeks, these individuals are no longer eligible for unemployment compensation. So we're asking that H.R. 589 be considered, which is a bill by Congressman BOBBY SCOTT and myself, to extend this unemployment compensation by 14 weeks. That's the least we can do.

Make no mistake about it, people are suffering. Children don't have enough to eat. People want and need jobs, as we saw during the Congressional Black Caucus' very important and successful jobs tour and the Congressional Progressive Caucus' Speak Out for Jobs Now tour. People want our economy to grow, but they know that they need a job to do this.

Our country needs full employment for people to turn the economy around.

More and more people are falling into poverty than ever before—from all walks of life and educational backgrounds.

The Out of Poverty Caucus will continue to sound the alarm about the growing crisis of people living in or facing poverty. I want to remind everyone that many middle-income people are on the verge of falling into poverty. As we say, many are one paycheck away from poverty. It is critical that America returns to the land of opportunity for all.

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STOP MILITARY RAPE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SPEIER) for 5 minutes.

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, as I have done virtually every week, to tell a story of a man or a woman in the military who has been raped. Nineteen thousand are raped every year in the military. Only 13 percent report the rapes because there has been such an ineffective addressing of this issue. So today, I rise again to tell another story.

I hear from victims who have been sharing their stories with me by emailing me at stopmilitaryrape@mail.house.gov. It is time for us to act. We have known of this problem for over 16 years. We have had 18 hearings and reports on this issue, and yet nothing changes.

So today I'm going to tell you about Darchelle Mitchell, an airman. And she writes: "I never thought that I would be a victim of such a horrible and traumatic event, nor did I believe that it would occur under the blanket of freedom I swore to fight for. I decided to serve my country as an example for my two boys and to do my share to better my Nation."

"In my first year, I began to accept the unwanted comments of my shape, size and looks as though it was part of something to deal with when working and living with men on a ship. It escalated to the uncomfortable motions by a superior trying to pull me into a two-manned rack that was in the office. I reported the incident to my immediate supervisors requesting that they speak with him, and the responses were always that the superior meant no harm and that he was just being playful. This led to my superior grabbing me by the top of my head and pushing it into his genital area, stating, 'I bet I can make you say 'oh, God.''"

"After the reporting of this incident, I suffered the backlash of being blackballed. My job assignments became very difficult, and I bounced around from command to command until someone was willing to take the chance to allow me to perform as an airman trying to advance."

"I worked very hard to remove the negative light that was cast upon me. I went on to advance to a dual-qualified